

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00692 301858Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /047 W

----- 129775

R 301306Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4993

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MASERU 692

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LT, OAU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL TO LESOTHO

1. OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA VISITED LESOTHO FOR ABOUT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AT END OF LAST WEEK FOR TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER LEABUA JONATHAN. HE ARRIVED ON CHARTER FLIGHT JUNE 27 WITH LESOTHO DELEGATION RETURNING FROM MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS AND FLEW BACK TO MOZAMBIQUE ON CHARTER FLIGHT 28 JUNE ESCORTED BY LESOTHO'S FOREIGN MINISTER KOTSOKOANE.

2. ETEKI'S VISIT APPARENTLY SPONTANEOUS REACTION TO INVITATION EXTENDED BY LESOTHO DELEGATION, NOT CERTAIN UNTIL LATE HOUR. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE SAYS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MASERIBANE PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSUADING ETEKI TO MAKE TRIP.

3. PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN AND ETEKI SAID TO HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS FOR FOUR HOURS. JONATHAN LATER HOSTED RECEPTION AT WHICH BOTH SPOKE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. ON MORNING OF JUNE 28 KOTSOKOANE TOOK ETEKI FOR SYMBOLIC EXCURSION TO SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER POST AT MASERU BRIDGE.

4. COMMENT: THIS WAS FIRST VISIT BY AN OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL TO
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LESOTHO AND MUST IN PART REFLECT RECOGNITION OF LESOTHO'S INCREASE-
INGLY ACTIVE ROLE IN OAU. EFFECT OF TRIP ON MORALE OF SENIOR GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALS NOTICEABLE AS, AT LEAST FOR SHORT WHILE, SENSE OF
LESOTHO'S ISOLATION FROM REST OF OAU MEMBERS SUBSTANTIALLY DIMIN-
ISHED.

HALSTED

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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